



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DEC 30 1996

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The Honorable Robert E. Andrews  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
506A White Horse Pike  
Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035

JAN - 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Congressman Andrews:

Thank you for your letter of November 19, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Herbert E. Steelman, Director, Camden County Department of Public Safety, Lindenwold, New Jersey. Mr. Steelman expresses his concerns regarding the possible effect on emergency service communications as a result of the Commission's recent proposal that establishes tentative policies for developing the initial digital television (DTV) channel allotments. Mr. Steelman objects to any proposal to assign channel 21 to the television station currently licensed to Vineland, New Jersey. Your constituent states that this would cause severe adjacent channel interference to public safety radio services in Gloucester County, New Jersey, on channels 19 and 20.

On July 25, 1996, the Commission proposed policies for allotting channels for DTV service and also provided a draft DTV Table of Allotments. (See Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC No. 96-317, released August 14, 1996). In that action, the Commission proposed to provide all existing television broadcasters with a second 6 MHz channel for digital channels would maintain the channels currently used for land mobile operations in a number of major markets, including channels 19 and 20 in the Philadelphia and adjacent New Jersey region. While our draft DTV Table would provide for use of channel 21 in Vineland, New Jersey and channel 18 in Secaucus, New Jersey, we believe that engineering solutions are available for avoiding interference between DTV and land mobile operations on adjacent frequencies. At the same time, we understand the potential for interference between existing land mobile services and new DTV operations in the Philadelphia/New Jersey region. Please be assured that we are carefully evaluating all available alternatives for maintaining the interests of land mobile operators as well as broadcasters as we develop the DTV Table of Allotments.

We will also include a copy of your letter in MM Docket No. 87-268. Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Smith

Chief

Office of Engineering and Technology

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

ROBERT E. ANDREWS  
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3001**

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SUBCOMMITTEE:  
ASIA

November 19, 1996

Ms. Linda Townsend Solheim  
Director, Legislative Affairs  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St NW Rm 808  
Washington, D.C. 20036-3505

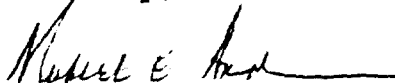
Dear Ms. Solheim:

I write to you on behalf of Mr. Herbert E. Steelman, Director, Camden County Department of Public Safety, Charles J. DePalma Complex, 2311 Egg Harbor Rd., Lindenwold, NJ 08021, who has contacted my office for assistance. Enclosed please find correspondence regarding possible action by the Federal Communications Commission to reallocate the current UHF broadcast television channels. The Camden County Department of Public Safety strongly opposes any reallocation of channels to the television industry. The Department also states that it is imperative that they remain with the existing channels for the safety of the residents in Camden County.

I would appreciate if you would afford the Camden County Department of Law and Public Safety all due consideration under the law in their efforts. In addition I would be interested in receiving your review and reply to this correspondence so that I may advise them accordingly.

Please forward your response to the attention of my aide, Ms. Susan Gronek, at 506A White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035, (609) 546-5100, Fax: (609) 546-9529. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



ROBERT E. ANDREWS  
Member of Congress

REA:smg  
enc.

REPLY TO

2439 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3001  
(202) 225-6501

16 SOMERDALE SQUARE  
SOMERDALE, NJ 08083-1345  
(609) 627-9000

63 N. BROAD STREET  
WOODBURY, NJ 08096-4602  
(609) 848-3900

e-mail: [r.andrews@hr.house.gov](mailto:r.andrews@hr.house.gov)

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**FROM:** Deborah Spinella, Department of Public Safety  
(609) 783-4808 ex: 5029  
fax: (609) 435-2760

**DATE:** 11/18/96

**TO:** Susanna

**FAX:** 546 9529

**PAGES:** 4 (including this cover)

☐ Reply ASAP ☐ FYI ☐ Urgent ☒ Please Review

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC SAFETY



ANNETTE CASTIGLIONE-DEGAN

Freeholder

HERBERT E. STEELMAN

Director

**Camden County**

CHARLES J. DEPALMA COMPLEX

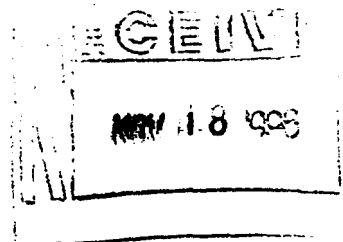
2311 Egg Harbor Road

Lindenwold, New Jersey 08021

(609) 783-4808 Fax: (609) 435-2760

November 18, 1996

Honorable Robert E. Andrews  
506A White Horse Pike  
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035



Dear Congressman Andrews:

Enclosed is a copy of a memo that I have sent to the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission. This letter explains our position on the possible reallocation of current UHF broadcast channels.

The television industry would like to have the use of channels 19 and 20 for their digital television network. We currently operate our countywide police communications on channel 20. If the FCC reallocates these channels to the television industry, we will have to move our emergency operation to another set of channels. This would be extremely costly to the taxpayers of the County. If the FCC does grant these channels to the TV industry, the taxpayers should not have to pay for a new radio system due to an FCC decision.

As also stated in my letter, the FCC will be reviewing a move to place TV Channel 65 - Vineland on channel 21, directly next to channel 20. This will cause severe interference with our public safety radio network because their radio tower is located in Waterford Township. We are against this move also.

I would like to request that you review our letter and support our viewpoint on this critical FCC issue. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. We have been advised that the FCC is accepting information on this project until Friday, November 22, 1996. The Camden County Police Chiefs Association also supports our views and has asked all departments to write to the FCC Secretary asking that they do not to grant the reallocation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Herbert E. Steelman".

Herbert E. Steelman  
Director of Public Safety  
Camden County

d196184

## DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC SAFETY



ANNETTE CASTIGLIONE-DEGAN

Freeholder

HERBERT E. STEELMAN

Director

**Camden County**

CHARLES J. DEPALMA COMPLEX

2311 Egg Harbor Road

Lindenwold, New Jersey 08021

(609) 783-4808 Fax: (609) 435-2760

Secretary, Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Room 222  
Washington, DC 20554

November 12, 1996

Re: Advance Television System MM Docket no.87-268  
and their impact upon the  
Existing Television Broadcast Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Camden County Public Safety is very concerned with the pending action possible by FCC to reallocate the current UHF broadcast television channels.

Our reason of concern is very simply, that we dispatch emergencies over 20 two way radio channels covering 227 square miles and 14.3 miles of navigable waterfront with 17 different repeater sites. Our UHF radio channels are on TV Channels 19 & 20.

Our radio system is used by thirty of the thirty-seven municipalities in Camden County along with three County Police agencies everyday as their main and only communication system.

The other seven towns along with other police agencies such as; Patco, FBI, US Marshall office, Regional School district, etc, use these frequencies to enhance communication with Camden County Public Safety.

Our radio network is responsible for over 500 mobile radios and approximately 3000 portable radios of the agencies that we provide dispatch service to, not to mention the other police agencies, which the amount of radios is unknown.

Our activity on radio escalates every year by a substantial amount, in 1994 we dispatched 213,308 police calls compared to 182,955 in 1993. Last year in 1995 there were 230,455 calls and this year we are averaging 663 calls per day. These numbers reflect the amount of calls, not the amount of radio transmissions. Each police call requires at least four radio transmission for each call.

As you can see, the loss of these radio channels will create a serious problem for the public safety agencies in Camden County. Not only would this be a nightmare, trying to re-establish communications on a different spectrum but it also would not be fair to the taxpayers in Camden County, who recently paid for the radio change from VHF to UHF in late 1980's and early 90's.

Additionally, a move to a higher band will create the need for more equipment as the higher bands do not have the same covering distance as the lower bands.

We sincerely hope that a decision is made NOT TO REALLOCATE these channels for Digital Television. It is imperative that we stay on our existing channels for the safety of the residents in Camden County.

Another area of concern is the relocating of TV Channel 65 to channel 21. This is a major concern to us, as TV 65 is located in Waterford Twp in Camden County. This will definitely cause substantial interference on TV 20. Again we plea to you, Do Not Give Permission for this to take place. This will cause serious safety problems in Camden County.

In theory, if the television broadcasters are successful in convincing FCC to reallocate these channels, please advise what will take place; where does that leave Camden County Public Safety and all the municipalities that depend on us for communications ?

How and where are we suppose to coordinate two way communications for Camden County Public Safety agencies ?

Who is responsible to fund the reallocating to a higher band ?

If each agency is left to fend for themselves, will there be any relief funds available ?

Moving to a higher spectrum will cause the need for additional radio equipment in order to duplicate the coverage we have already established with the UHF system. Will funds be available to handle the additional expense ?

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and your time and concern for Public Safety in Camden County.

Sincerely,



Director Herbert E. Steelman  
Camden County Public Safety